

# Zama Housing Times

*An Update of Housing Issues and Happenings*

## “CAW...CAW...CAW”

It is that time of year again when you will see more and more of these birds. With spring right around the corner when cherry blossoms bloom, these birds will become more and more of a nuisance until their breeding season is over after June. These birds eat almost anything. They will save their food on tree branches or at the root of trees and hide the food by covering it with leaves or small stones. Once there is an established feeding and breeding area, these birds will defend their area and attack pets.



The bird's name is *Corvus macrorhynchos* (Jungle crow or hashibuto-garasu). They have sharp beaks and a feisty attitude. At night, these crows flock together to sleep and roost. They are a clever bird. For example, they will drop walnuts and shells from the sky onto paved roads in order to crack them.

The high number of birds occurs because of one main reason: garbage. Many crows peck at garbage in the early morning before the garbage crew removes the trash. If you overfill your trash container or do not secure the lids, the crows will begin pecking through the bags and scatter the garbage everywhere. Do not expect the birds to leave if there is plenty of food for them to eat.

There are stringent and detailed restrictions on exterminating or capturing wildlife, including birds, in Japan. Only the governor of the prefecture may authorize the extermination or capture of these birds. Even with verifiable evidence of actual harm or damage, such authorization is rarely granted.

Please comply with the trash segregation policy. With your help, we can reduce the crow problem. To do that, we need everyone to:

- ❖ not feed the birds
- ❖ feed your pets only inside your house
- ❖ segregate your trash properly
- ❖ never overfill your garbage container(s)
- ❖ secure your garbage container lid(s).

